

JANUARY 1984
Issue No. 101

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

Bill Massey
Editor

At the end Roland was without funds, so his final expenses have been cared for in part by friends. About a dozen years ago he had disposed of his large collection, and only a few scattered odds and ends were on hand. These will be offered during our auction at the coming meeting, with proceeds to go toward such final expenses. Also friends and fellow collectors may wish to make small memorial contributions, which can be sent to Ritterband. Any cash remaining after the debts are cleared will be given to some local charity in the name of Roland Atwood.

JANUARY Our January meeting will be held at the home of
MEETING Robert Ritterband on January 15. The meeting will
begin around 1:30 in the afternoon. The address is
6576 Colgate Avenue in Los Angeles. Colgate Avenue parallels
Wilshire Blvd., about one-half mile to the north. The address
is approximately half way between Fairfax Avenue and La Cienega
Blvd. If you need additional directions, feel free to call
Bob or Molly B. at 938-4504.

OFFICERS John Barnes is CATC president for 1984. John agreed
FOR 1984 to give Steve Alpert a well deserved break after
 several years at the helm. Bill Massey is again
Vice President and Co-editor of this newsletter; Elaine Willihan
is secretary, and Andy Crusen will serve as treasurer.

NOVEMBER Frank and Norma Roselinsky were hosts for our November 30
MEETING meeting. In attendance were John Barnes, Boyd Cashman,
 Andy Crusen, Larry Edell, Bill Massey, Bob Null, Frank
Roselinsky, Paul Thompson, and Elaine Willihan, and guest Norma
Roselinsky. The opening trading session was followed by a brief
business meeting, election of officers, and an auction, which netted
the club over \$18.00, in part due to donations by Larry Edell, Steve
Alpert, Boyd Cashman, and Frank Roselinsky.

MEMBERSHIP Our present membership is 75. At one point last year
 we neared the 100 mark. A membership of 100 is much more
cost effective for the club, as our major expenses (printing and
postage) are little different for 50 or for 100 members. I am
certainly not suggesting we limit ourselves to this number, but
rather that we make a special effort to increase our membership
to at least 100. Many letters received by Elaine at dues renewal
time include comments about the enjoyment received from our
organization for very modest dues. You can help by promoting our
club to fellow collectors. A reprint of a hand-out of a few years
back is included on the following page. Cut it out and give it to
a prospective member.

PERSONAL It has been suggested over the years that CATC
ADVERTISEMENT provide a free advertising service for members as
 many other organizations do. At our November
meeting we decided to initiate such a service with this issue.
Although we would not be able to contact all members in time for
the January issue, we individually passed the word to those with
whom we corresponded over the Holidays. Our apologies if you did
not hear of this decision, and please send your ad for the March
issue.

Please send all ads to Bill Massey, 1141 Wagon Wheel Ct., San Dimas,
Calif. 91773. Please limit your copy to four typewritten lines.
I will run your ad for up to three issues, or you can submit a new
ad for each issue. If the ads happen to exceed two pages, it may
be necessary to delay those received latest. We did discuss paid
ads for non-members, but quite frankly, at \$3 a year for dues, I
do not believe this service would be practical.

CASINO TOKENS CATC member Bill Borland is offering a new
GAMBLING CHIPS publication, "World Wide Casino Exchange
 Newsletter." The subscription price for this
publication is \$24.00/year. John Barnes has obtained the initial
copy, January 1984 issue, and will be doing a review in the March
issue of Token Topics. Subscriptions should be sent to: Wm. Borland,
Star Time, Inc., Box 14827, Las Vegas, NV 89114

WANTED Suggestions for an appropriate name for the personal advertisement section of Token Topics.

WANTED Buttons, badges, tokens, medals, sales catalogs pertaining to automotive, trains, trucks, early California, bicycles, patriotic, popular issues, etc. Gordie Chamberlin, 4314 Canoga Ave. Woodland Hills, CA 91364. Bus. Phone 213 820 6153 (1)

TRADE my WWII Japanese Invasion note for your token of any type. Multiples OK, but not more than five of a kind. I will pay premium prices for any token from Witt. IL, or Montgomery Co., IL. If you have these tokens, but not for sale, I will refund your postage for a rubbing. Lloyd Andries, Box 624, Witt, IL 62094 (1)

FOR SALE 100 different amusement and video arcade tokens, \$20 postpaid. Steve Alpert, Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90064 (1)

Send ten different train or bus tokens, receive ten different amusement or OPA tokens. Include stamp for bonus. WANTED Bible scripture tokens. Will Buy or trade. Larry Edell, 1307-B Amapola Ave., Torrance, CA 90501 Ph: 213 320 9164 (1)

WANTED Uniform buttons from railroad, trolley, and transit lines. Paul P. Thompson, 5406 N. La Presa, San Gabriel, CA 91776 (1)

HIGHEST PRICES paid for Louisiana tokens and Civil War tokens I need. Write or ship. Cindy Grellman, 670 Korina St., Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437 (1)

NEBRASKA tokens wanted. Also need dairy, bakery, CCC, BBC, military, canning, prison, dynamite, and exploder tokens. Have large number of Calif. tokens to trade. George Hosek, 7411 Idledale Lane, Omaha, NE 68112 (1)

WOODEN money collector offers personals for SASE or any type wood with city and state. Thomas W. King, 4602 W. Kaweah, Visalia, CA 93277 (1)

FOR SALE or trade. (\$2.50) Complete set of FSC tokens, Midtown/Food Mart/1206 16th St./Bedford/IN (no 50¢) Jack R. Smith, Box 26423, Lawrence, IN 46226 (1)

WANTED Calif. car wash tokens: 40 A B, 293 B, 413 B C, 530 B, 657 A, 699 A B, 730 C, 815 A. Will trade any of the following transit tokens: PA 340 C, 360 A, 495 L, 850 B, 875 B; KS 150 C, 480 A, 600 C. Michael Super, 222 Overlook Rd., Ambler, PA 19002 (1)

RADIO/TELEVISION related tokens, medals, woods wanted. Also collect personals. Buy or trade. Bill Massey, 1141 Wagon Wheel Ct. San Dimas, CA 91773 (1)

VIDEO ARCADE tokens wanted. Buy or trade. Don Hauser, 123 N. San Gabriel Blvd., San Gabriel, CA 91775 (1)

OLYMPIC GAMES Share the excitement of this great event by issuing plastic personals to honor our 1984 Olympiad. I now offer such a token, and will be glad to send one for your collection, along with details on how any member can join this series. Like last summer's popular San Diego AVA Convention issues, this is sure to draw lots of participation. Total cost: \$28 for 200 personalized tokens, plus \$1.80 tax if you live in Calif. Send your request, and a return stamp (but no envelope); act promptly for the best choice of color combinations. Robert Ritterband, 6576 Colgate Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90048 (1)

CHICAGO tokens wanted. Buy or trade. Ben Odesser, 4604 Church St., Skokie, IL 60076 (1)

AVA CONVENTION personal tokens for SASE. John G. Nicolosi, 3002 Galindo St., Oakland, CA 94601 (1)

TOKEN COLLECTORS

DID YOU KNOW THAT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HAS ITS OWN TOKEN CLUB, ACTIVE SINCE 1957 ? THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF TOKEN COLLECTORS INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR NEXT MEETING. COME MEET US AND BRING YOUR DUPLICATES.

For information write 516 West 99th St., Los Angeles 90044, or phone S. Alpert, President (213) 478-7405, or E. Willahan, Secretary, (213) 755-2708.

TOKEN TOPICS

March, 1984

Issue #108

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

JOHN M. BARNES

Editor

GREETINGS: Again from your recycled president, back at his old podium. Again I invite you who have vigorous opinions or other literary contributions to submit them to me or Bill Massey so they may be put in print. How about it?

MARCH MEETING: Once again our gracious CATC Secretary, Elaine Willahan, has invited members and guests to meet at her home-516 West 99th Street, Los Angeles-on Sunday, March 18, 1984. Festivities start around 1:00 PM (you'll see what I mean when the refreshments arrive). Besides Elaine's goodies, we will have our discussion meeting, and your president will have tokens to sell at ridiculously low prices. If you haven't been there before: Take the Harbor Freeway to the Century Blvd. offramp and depart. Elaine's house is close to Figueroa, on the West side of the Freeway.

JANUARY MINUTES: The January meeting, as is customary, was held at the home of Bob and Molly Ritterband in Los Angeles. Present were: Steve Alpert, John Barnes, Dick Besterd, Don Bestle, Boyd Cashman, Andy Crusen, Bob Carter, Harriet Carter, Larry Edell, Larry Ellman, Bill Kink, Bob Kubach, James Garner, Fred McGinnis, Bob Null, Robert Ritterband, Wally Shidler, Eleanor Smith, Ken Smith, and Elaine Willahan, for a (record?) total of 21 members. Guest/hostess Molly Ritterband served delicious cake and fruit. We welcomed Marion Bestle as a new member. A total of \$11.40 was realized from the auction, mainly because of donation lots given by Jack Smith, Steve Alpert, Gordon Smith (we miss seeing you, Gordon), Don Bestard, Larry Edell, and Robert Kubach. A discussion of the recent death of founding member Roland Atwood was held, and Bob Ritterband advised that any contributions toward Roland's burial fund would be appreciated and could be made to Bob. Steve Alpert remarked that the RTD Olympic Token Set was on the way and would be offered by him to club members at \$19.00 for the set of twentyfour. The Association's supply of 1975 Convention tokens have sold very well @\$5.00 each, and only a few are now left. Anyone desiring a specimen should contact secretary Elaine Willahan.

DUES: This is the time of year when I have to remind the "unpaid members" that no further issues of Token Topics may be mailed unless the necessary \$3.00 is forwarded to secretary Elaine Willahan, address as above, ZIP 90044. May we hear from the following: Miller, Di Michael, Elman, Lee, Reznick, Coops, Holliday, Wilker, Wahlberg, Anderson, Schinke, Hamilton, Powell, Hauser, Rico, Hemphill, Golden, Vacketta, Bows, Balderrama, and Short.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following:

Marion Bestle, 4010 W. Victory Blvd., Burbank, Cal. 91505 (Nevada items)
John Ciecka, 3456 Primrose Road, Philadelphia, Pa. 19114 (Transportation tokens, car wash and school lunchroom tokens. Cardboard paper fare tickets)

OLYMPIC BUS TOKENS: Steve Alpert has asked me to note that these sets will be available for sale by him at the March meeting. After many delays, they were finally released on February 10; Steve will give you a better deal on them.

IMPROVEMENT?: Your editor is hoping to gain access to a word processor this year along with training in its use. Such an innovation would greatly improve your ease of reading Token Topics when I edit it.

GOT LUCKY: I can't resist writing about it! I was working not far from home when I found a coin store I hadn't visited before, and was immediately informed that there were no tokens. There were, however, some unappealing foreign junk boxes, and in my limited time on coin break I scrat^{ch}ed through the smaller containers. After a few minutes, there it was, for seventy five cents: Lincoln (Nebraska) Street Railway Co.//One 5 Fare 18 85 celluloid white (Catalog seventy five dollars). This item probably would have been in a more expensive slot, except that it has 1mm holes drilled top and bottom and came with two brass links attached. I'm guessing that someone in times past decided that this worthless token, along with others, could be made into a door screen. It's too cheap looking for jewelry. Rare tokens aren't necessarily beautiful, but then I'm really not complaining.

THE BOOK REVIEW: Last issue, Bill Massey promised you a review of the "Casino Exchange Newsletter". Elaine Willahan had mailed me the first (promotional) issue in December, and it looked so good that I immediately subscribed. Its scope is world wide, with emphasis on Nevada gambling numismatics. The first issue has no in-depth articles, but rather scores of bite-sized bits of information which are surprisingly helpful: new issues, bankruptcies, maverick identifications, and lots of gossip. Unfortunately, as of today (March 4) there hasn't been a second issue. Instead, I received a (February 4 dated) letter advising that it would be along in a month; computerization of information was causing the delay. Now, this is one of those things that is really fine reading, so I hope it gets off the ground. Note that an excellent listing of tokens for sale (at reasonable prices) accompanied the first issue. I will keep the readers up to date on the progress of this publication.

For those of us interested in the foreign scene, Jerry Schimmel has published what looks like a catalog of his own collection as French Tokens, 1983, 34 pages. It is done in Jerry's good scholarly manner, and is well worth its five dollar cost. My only reservation is that the field of French tokens is, to say the least, vast. Jerry's book, good as it is, amounts only to an introduction, and I am interested to see if he will expand upon it at some future time. It is possible that other catalogs of this type will appear...this book is the first of the "Worldwide Tokens Series".

Those of us concerned with the interesting and historic island of Puerto Rico will find extremely useful the very complete and well-researched Plantation Tokens of Puerto Rico, by Duilio Vaia. This catalog covers all pre-United States issued plantation tokens, plus Island transportation tokens. Issued 1980; available from the author, RR 2 Buzon 590, San Sebastian, Puerto Rico 00755 for \$5.00 postpaid. Of the hundreds of tokens priced (plantation), few are valued at less than \$25.00. This is a rather forbidding series except for the specialist.

CHOCOLATE TOKENS: You may collect these Olympic items by sending the wrapper from a 3 oz.+ bar of Tobler chocolate and \$3.99 to Tobler Ski Team Offer, P. O. Box 8247, Clinton, Iowa 52736. Let me know how you preserve them!



HELP SUPPORT THE U.S. SKI TEAM

Chocolat Tobler

Imported from Switzerland

COMMEMORATIVE Only \$3.99
U.S. SKI TEAM
GIFT PACKAGE

with proof of purchase from Tobler or Toblerone 3 oz. or larger size bar. See back for details.

12 delicious "Ski Team" Swiss Milk Chocolates wrapped in gold foil...plus Official U.S. Ski Team Lapel Pin.

With each order, \$1.00 will be donated to the U.S. Ski Team!



MAIL-IN CERTIFICATE

SEND SAE for free token for nominating me for another term on TAMS Board of Directors. Ben Odesser, 4604 Church St., Skokie, IL 60076 (1)

WANTED Uniform buttons and lapel pins from railroad, street car, and transit lines. W. D. Kirk, 606 No. Avenue 66, Apt. 13, Los Angeles, CA 90042 (1)

Los Angeles OLYMPIC BUS TOKEN SETS (24 pieces in leatherette case) for sale, only \$23.50 per set postpaid; ten or more sets \$20.00 each postpaid. Stephen Alpert, Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066 (1)

Wanted: Metal Gaming Tokens before 1978. Don Bestle, 4010 W. Victory Blvd., Burbank, CA 91505 (1)

Wanted: Tokens, medals, coins; anything to do with the state of Nevada. Marion Bestle, 4010 W. Victory Blvd., Burbank, CA 91505 (1)

WANTED, Illinois Trade Tokens. Will swap 2 parking or 2 transpos or 2 Sambos, my choice, for 1 Illinois token of your choice. Wooden nickel, Jack's Shoe Repair, SF, Good for 50¢ in shoe repair; 50¢ and SASE. John G. Nicolosi, 3002 Galindo St., Oakland, CA 94601 (1)

I need tokens from UT, NV, ID, MT, WY, CO, and AZ. Will pay cash or trade. Have many Calif. pieces. David L. Freed, Box 2009, Salt Lake, UT 84110 (1)

BID BOARD, The Coin Depot, 123 N. San Gabriel Blvd., San Gabriel, Calif., 91775. Up to 200 lots of exnumia weekly. Also want Video Arcade Tokens. Contact Don Hauser at above address! (1)

WANTED: Calif. Car Wash Tokens; 40 A B, 293 B, 413 B C, 530 B, 657 A 699 A B, 730 C, 815 A. Will trade any of the following transit tokens: PA 340 C, 360 A, 495 L, 850 B, 875 B; KS 150 C, 480 A, 600 C. Michael Super, 222 Overlook Rd., Ambler, PA 19002 (2)

FOR SALE or trade. (\$2.50) Complete set of FSC tokens, Midtown/Food Mart./1206 16th. St./Bedford, IN (no 50¢). Jack R. Smith, Box 26423, Lawrence, IN 46226 (2)

SEND 10 different train or bus tokens, receive 10 different amusement or OPA tokens. Include stamp for bonus. WANTED: Bible scripture tokens. Will buy or trade. Larry Edell, 1307-B Amapola Ave., Torrance, CA 90501 Ph: 213 320 9164 (2)

HIGHEST PRICES paid for Louisiana tokens and Civil War Tokens I need. Write or ship. Cindy Grellman, 670 Korina St., Vandenburg AFB, CA 93437 (2)

CATC PERSONAL ADS

As you can see, we have room for more ads this month. This service is for you as a member of CATC. Please take advantage of it. Mail your ads to: Bill Massey, 1141 Wagon Wheel Ct., San Dimas, CA 91773 Please try and limit your copy to three or four lines.

WANTED Buttons, badges, tokens, medals, sales catalogs pertaining to automotive, trains, trucks, early California, bicycles, patriotic, popular issues, etc. Gordie Chamberlin, 4314 Canoga Ave., Woodland Hills, CA 91364 (2)

TRADE my WWII Japanese Invasion note for your token of any type. Multiples up to five of a kind OK. I will pay premium prices for any Witt, Ill. or Montgomery County, Ill. token. I'll refund your postage for a rubbing. Lloyd Andries, Box 624, Witt, IL 62094 (2)

NEBRASKA tokens wanted. Also need Diary, Bakery, CCC, BBC, Military Canning, Prison, Dynamite, Lumber, and Exploder tokens. Have large number of CALIF tokens to trade. George Hosek, 7411 Idledale Lane, Omaha, NE (2)

Wooden Money Collector offers personals for SASE or any type of wood with city and state. Thomas W. King, 4602 W. Kaweah, Visalia, CA 93277 (2)

RADIO/TELEVISION tokens or medals with station call letters wanted. Also want one each single letter maverick token with I, N, or T. Always want QUINCY, ILLINOIS exnumia. Bill Massey, 1141 Wagon Wheel Ct., San Dimas, CA 91773

BE SURE TO SEND NEW COPY. I WILL RUN EXISTING ADS FOR THREE ISSUES, OR YOU CAN CHANGE EACH ISSUE. JUST SEND ME THE ADS, ALL IT COSTS IS A STAMP!!

TOKEN TOPICS

May, 1984
Issue #109

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

Bill Massey
Editor

MAY MEETING I have the honor of being your host for the May meeting. The address is 1141 Wagon Wheel Court, San Dimas. As usual the swap session will begin around 1:00 on Sunday, May 20, to be followed by our business session and auction. For those of you who seldom venture this far "east," the location is very near the end of the 210 freeway. A map appears on the reverse side. If all else fails, please call me at 714-599-7192.

MARCH MEETING If the January meeting set an attendance record, (21), it was short lived. We had 23 members and one guest for this meeting at Elaine Willihan's. Word about her chocolate cake and pumpkin pie must be spreading! In attendance were: Andy Crusen, Elaine Willihan, Larry Edell, Fred McGinnis, George Ticknor, Boyd Cashman, Wally Shidler, John Hamilton, James Garner, Ken Smith, Elanor Smith, Paul Thompson, Steve Alpert, John Hillebrand, Robert Ritterband, Harriet Carter, Bob Carter, John Barnes, Bill Kirk, Bob Null, Bill Massey, Floyd Holliday, Ed Rico, and guest Victoria Hamilton. Our auction earned \$16.65 for the club treasury, thanks to donations by George Ticknor, Elaine Willihan, Larry Edell, Fred Halbird, Robert Ritterband, and Steve Alpert.

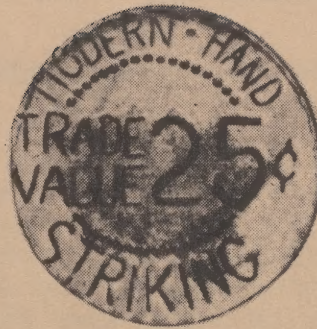
NEW MEMBER Please welcome John Hillebrand, 401 S. H St., #18, Bakersfield, CA 93324. John collects tokens of all U. S. Fairs and Expositions; tokens that commemorate State, City, or County anniversaries; and So-Called Dollars.

CASINO EXCHANGE NEWSLETTER We are receiving nothing but rave reviews of the recently initiated "Casino Exchange Newsletter. The publishers have generously offered CATC members a 50% discount on the regular subscription price of \$24, and a 20% discount reduction on items from their regularly published "Inventory Update." Casino Exchange Newsletter, Box 14827, Las Vegas, NV 89114

RTD OLYMPIC TOKENS Another bargain for CATC members who can make our May meeting: Steve Alpert will be selling the RTD Olympic issues in factory sealed sets for \$14.00. You can order these tokens from Steve for only \$18.50 per set, postage and tax paid. Steve Alpert, Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066 213 478 7405

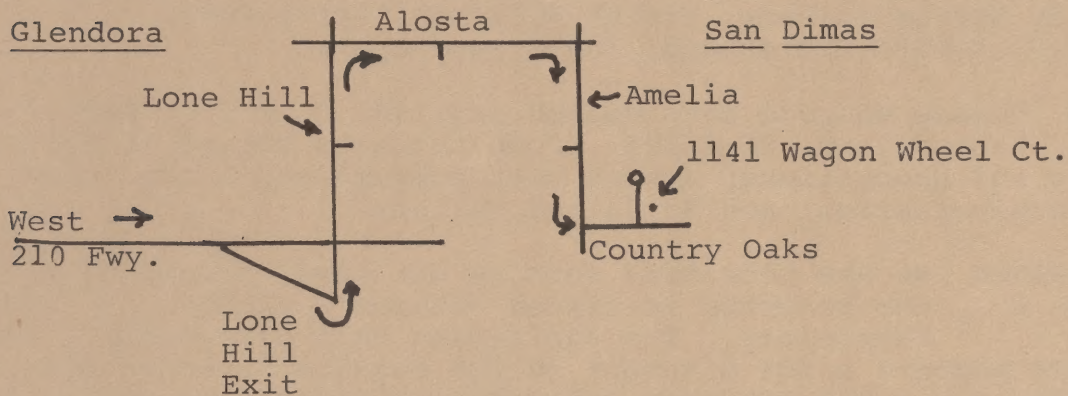
DUES NOTICE This is the final notice for those of you who have not yet sent Elaine your 1984 dues. And, in your token travels you might mention that dues for the oldest active token club in the country are only \$3.00 per year.

AN INTERESTING OFFERING I ran across an article in the April 10 issue of Coin World that our readers may find of interest. A personal (shown) is offered free to anyone requesting a price list (Custom designed hand-struck tokens) with a large SASE. Write Charles D. Arceneaux, Modern Hand Striking, Box 5133, Lafayette, LA 70502.



RTD OLYMPIC

SPRING GAMES? The same issue of Coin World adds yet another bit of confusion to the "torch bearer token" controversy. Without going into great detail, the RTD claims there are only 200-300 of these tokens now in circulation, through information given CW by Marc Littman, a press official with RTD. Littman claims that RTD has 28,175 of the torch bearer tokens in stock, and that a February 13 order that each \$5 roll of 10 tokens contain one of the elusive tokens will be carried out, but only when sales "increase!" O. K. Marc, whatever you say.



HELP! I cannot speak for Mr. Barnes, but I have somewhat of a struggle, as you can see, coming up with enough information for this newsletter. I feel that our group is so active that they all subscribe to the same publications as I and have likely seen most of what I have. So, please feel free to submit anything that you feel might be of interest to our members.

CATC PERSONAL ADS

Advertising is free to CATC members, and we seem to have ample space to allow four or five lines as many are not taking advantage of this service. Please mail your ads to Bill Massey, 1141 Wagon Wheel Ct., San Dimas, CA 91773

WANTED TO BUY-Will pay cash for any of these California transportation tokens: 70-A(Restrike); 320-G; 450-S; 615-C; 715-N; 745-X; 761-A; 775-K; 845-H,I,J; 885-B; 895-E; 945-G. Robert Ritterband, 6576 Colgate Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90048 (213-938-4504) (1)

HIGHEST PRICES PAID for Louisiana and Civil War tokens that I need. Write or ship. Cindy Grellman, 670 Korina St., Vandenburg AFB, CA 93437 (3)

SEND ten different train or bus tokens, receive ten different amusement or OPA tokens. Include stamp for bonus. WANTED-Bible Scripture tokens. Will buy or trade. Larry Edell, 1307-B Amapola Ave., Torrance, CA 90501 (213-320-9164) (3)

THREE STRIKES and you're out! The number following your ad indicates the number of times it has run. We'll run one ad up to three times. Send new copy, or a note to continue!

FOR SALE or trade. (\$2.50) Complete set of FSC tokens, Midtown/Food Mart./1206 16th St./Bedford, IN (no 50¢) Jack R. Smith, Box 26423, Lawrence, IN 46226 (3)

WANTED California Car Wash tokens-40A,B; 293B; 413B,C; 530B, 657A, 699A,B; 730C; 815A. Will trade any of the following transit tokens-PA 340-C, 360-A, 495-L, 850-B, 875-B; KS 150-C, 480-A, 600-C. Michael Super, 222 Overlook Rd., Ambler, PA 19002 (3)

I NEED TOKENS from UT, NV, ID, MT, WY, CO, and AZ. Will pay cash or trade. Have many California pieces. David L. Freed, Box 2009, Salt Lake, UT 84110 (2)

ELONGATED COIN San Francisco (Bay Bridge) Alcatraz (Alcatraz) Fisherman's Wharf (Wharf) Unc! 40¢ plus SASE. A few have small stain, these sell at 25¢ and SASE.....not really bad! John G. Nicolosi, 3002 Galindo St., Oakland, CA 94601 (1)

PLAN TO ATTEND A CATC MEETING THIS SUMMER if your vacation brings you to the area. We meet the third Sunday on alternate months, January-November. Our summer meeting is scheduled for July 15. Write for details and meeting location to be announced next meeting.

WANTED-Tokens, medals, coins; anything to do with the state of Nevada. Marion Bestle, 4010 W. Victory Blvd., Burbank, CA 91505 (2)

WANTED-Uniform buttons, lapel pins from railroad, street car and transit lines. Also collect medals and tokens picturing trains, engines, and diesel locomotives. W. D. Kirk, 606 N. Ave. 66, Apt. 13, Los Angeles, CA 90042 (2)

CRESTON CALIFORNIA Wood Nickle
limited issue, 25¢ plus SASE.
Thomas W. King, Wooden Money
Collector, 4602 W. Kaweah,
Visalia, CA 93277



MAIL BID SALE 15 CHOICE Hard Rubber tokens, one Carbon token,
all 19th Century. SASE for list. Closes July 15. Some Transit
related items! ATCO rules. Bill Massey, 1141 Wagon Wheel Ct.,
San Dimas, CA 91773 (1)

WANTED Buttons, badges, tokens, medals, sales catalogs pertaining
to automotive, trains, trucks, early California, bicycles,
patriotic, popular issues. Gordie Chamberlin, 4314 Canoga Ave.,
Woodland Hills, CA 91364 (3)

NEBRASKA tokens wanted. Also need Diary, Bakery, CCC, BBC,
Military, Canning, Prison, Dynamite, Lumber, and Exploder
tokens. Have a large number of California tokens to trade.
George Hosek, 7411 Idledale Lane, Omaha, NE 68112 (2)

TRADE My reproduction copy of WW II German Surrender document
for your token of ANY type. I pay Premium Prices for any token
from Witt, IL, or Montgomery Co., IL Lloyd Andries, Jr.,
Box 624, Witt, IL 62094 (1)

BID BOARD--THE COIN DEPOT, 123 N. San Gabriel Blvd., San Gabriel,
California. Up to 200 lots of exonumia weekly. Don Hauser,
213-287-8144 (1)

LOS ANGELES OLYMPIC BUS TOKENS-factory sealed cased sets for
sale at \$18.50 each postpaid, tax paid. (Will sell at \$14.00
per set in person at the May CATC meeting.) Stephen Alpert,
Box 66331, Los Angeles, CA 90066

TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

July, 1984

Issue #110

JOHN M. BARNES
Editor

JULY MEETING: CATC Secretary Elaine Willahan (I don't know what we would do without her) has again offered her home for the upcoming CATC meeting on Sunday, July 15, 1984. In case someone doesn't know the way to her house with his eyes closed: she is found at 516 West 99th Street, Los Angeles. From the Harbor Freeway use the Century Blvd. offramp. Elaine's house is close to Figueroa, on the west side of the Freeway. Activities begin at about 1:00 PM.

MAY MINUTES: Our May meeting was held at the San Dimas home of member Bill Massey, whose wife thoughtfully provided home-baked refreshments. Present were members Ted McGinnis, Elaine Willahan, Andy Crusen, John Barnes, Bob Null, Bill Massey, Steve Alpert, Dick Bestard, Boyd Cashman, Larry Edell, John Hillebrand, Bill Kirk, and Bob Kubach. The prime topic of conversation was the Torchbearer RTD Olympic token-the rejected 25th design. Oddly enough, the RTD has no compunctions about selling the (currently unknown) number that it has on hand, but they cannot be purchased in conjunction with the cased souvenir set. They are, however, included one in each roll of Olympic fare tokens sold through local RTD offices. One of our members advised that he had accumulated one hundred of the rejected design pieces in this manner (I didn't ask what he did with the other nine hundred regular issue pieces he also had to buy). At this meeting I acquired my specimen from still another member for \$5.00, and was glad to get it. I have seen the piece on a local bid board with a \$9.00 reserve, and have heard of astronomical prices being paid in the eastern United States. Since estimates of existing pieces run about 20,000, I would suggest moderation in purchase of these pieces. This number of tokens is sufficient to supply all serious collectors for decades, and it is highly unlikely to become an "investment" item. I can't help wondering if it is legally good for an RTD fare...anyone care to drop one in a fare box?

THE BOOK REVIEW: Bill Borland's World Wide Casino Exchange Newsletter is now in its third issue, featuring a history of gambling in the United States, plus the useful bite-sized news items that are included in each issue. It's guaranteed good reading. Address: P. O. Box 14827, Las Vegas, Nevada 89114.

Lewis K. Ferguson's Iowa Trade Tokens is out in a new and expanded edition being sold by the Token and Medal Society. Needless to say, it is well worth the \$20.00 (TAMS member price) in order to deal with tokens so often seen in the western United States. No individual prices are given, but each token has an estimated rarity.

Siegfried E. Schwer has published Price Guide to 18th Century Tokens, referring to the British merchants' tokens struck in the 1780's and 1790's. Although examples from this series are often seen in the U. S. and Europe, even the commonest are expensive in really nice condition. This book is a useful aid to collectors of this "classical" series. It is available from Seaby, London; slightly over \$10.00 U.S.

SPECIAL THANKS: To those members who contributed material for the May auction, with proceeds donated to the CATC treasury: Larry Edell and Bill Massey.

THE BOOK REVIEW: Seaby of London has issued the 1984 edition of British Tokens and Their Values, limited to coverage of the widely collected 17th, 18th, and early 19th century merchants' issues. This is an attractive and reliable price guide, particularly if you, the user, do not happen to specialize in these series.

I suppose that someday my ever-expanding library on tokens (and coins and paper money, too) will drive me out of the front door. My philosophy is that the knowledgeable purchase of just one token can easily pay for the purchase of even an expensive reference work. Of course, unless you have room for a very large library, you can't house all of the books you would like to have. My system is to select the references for series that I see often, even if I don't specialize. An example of books that I don't have is the current work on Louisiana tokens. This is an excellent reference, but how many Louisiana tokens do I get to see each year? Not many. My attitude would surely change if I lived near that state. A second consideration in the purchase of references outside of one's main interests is the broadening of one's knowledge. It is nice, for example, to be able to converse intelligently about British numismatic items when visiting there. So much to know-so little time.

PAPER TOKENS--AN INTRODUCTION: I should really refer to these items as scrip, but have used this title deliberately, because they bear the same relationship to tokens as paper money does to coins. For this reason scrip should be receiving lots more attention from token collectors than it now does. The only area where I believe scrip is now cataloged is coal mine stores... and I might be wrong about that. The perishability of paper notes insured that they would not stand much use in saloon or grocery store, so the number of issues must be more limited than that of tokens. The first widespread useage in the United States of which I am aware was during the Civil War, when all small change disappeared from circulation. Many of the Southern issues are familiar to the reader, but he may not be aware of notes in denominations as small as three cents, such as that issued by the famous Oyster House in Boston in the early 1860's. All such pieces are almost impossible to find, all are uncataloged, and most are likely to continue to be ignored well into the future. Post Civil war notes were issued for a variety of reasons; some were promotional, but most were small, unattractive perforated tickets issued in booklets. I will have more to say about the latter in future issues; my first example illustrated below is a full-sized banknote of the promotional type, issued around the beginning of this century. The reverse says: Charles H. Rudd The Roman Hatter and Men's Furnisher HATS, CAPS, GLOVES, SHIRTS, COLLARS, NECKWEAR Underwear, Suspenders Reliable Goods at Reliable Prices. Though not specified on the note, it was issued in Rome, New York. This is the first of a series of illustrations of such things that I will bring to Token Topics.



SAVE THIS CHECK

This Check is good for and will be accepted as

FIVE CENTS CASH

with each CASH purchase of One Dollar

One check will be received with EACH
Dollar for goods purchased of

CHAS. H. RUDD

118 West Dominick Street

TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

SEPTEMBER 1984

ISSUE # 111

Larry Edell, Editor

SEPTEMBER MEETING

On September 16th we will meet at Frank and Norma Roselinsky's house in Van Nuys. Their phone is (818) 781-5509. The meeting will start at 1 pm and please remember to bring material for our auction!! To get there, take the Ventura Freeway to the Coldwater Canyon exit and go north, just past L.A. Valley College, to Oxnard Street. Go west on Oxnard past Grant High School, and then turn North on Atoll Avenue. Then make a quick left on Aetna Street. Their address is 13213 Aetna Street. Frank collects elongated material, so if you have any, bring it along!!

LAST MEETING

The July meeting was held at Elaine Willahan's house in Los Angeles. Seventeen members attended: Alpert, Cashman, Edell, Bestard, McGinnis, Crusen, Shidler, Smith (Ken & Eleanor), Thompson, Barnes, Carter (Bob & Harriet), Garner, Ritterband, Rico, and, of course, Elaine. We had one guest, Anna Molle. Our auction brought the club \$8., thanks to commissions, and donations by Bob Ritterband, Dick Bestard, and Larry Edell. Most of the discussion centered around the Olympic tokens, which are mentioned elsewhere in this issue. Also, to replace Bill Massey (who moved to Atlanta) an election was held to elect a new Vice President. In an extremely close contest, Larry Edell was elected. He received a plurality of only 16 votes, making it the closest CATC election of the year!!

AVA CONVENTION

The 35th annual gathering of the American Vecturist Association was held August 10-12, at the prestigious Read House in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Besides the usual swapping, selling, meeting, and reminising, we saw many of the features and attractions of historic Chattanooga, including the Lookout Mountain Incline Tour, for which special tokens have been produced. We also auctioned off nearly 1000 tokens, and most bidders were extremely happy with their prices realized! Plan now to attend the 1985 Convention in Toronto, Canada!!!!

NEW CATALOGS

Volume II of the Atwood-Coffee Transportation Token Catalog has finally been released!! This is a 776 page clothbound book with thousands of photographs, and can be rightly called an encyclopedia of transportation tokens!! The price is \$30.00 (\$16.50 to AVA members) and is available now from the American Vecturist Association, P.O. Box 1204, Boston, Mass., 02104. And, volume three of the catalog was on display at the AVA Convention, but will not be published until at least the end of the year. It is ALL photographs of the different varieties of each available transit token. It is valuable to non-variety collectors just for the superb photographs!!!

COMMUNION TOKENS

Communion token collectors now have their own publication, THE COMMUNION TOKEN QUARTERLY. CATC members may obtain a FREE sample copy and subscription information from its editor, Dr. Leonard K. Dunikoski, P.O. Box 122, Little Silver, NJ 07739

COSTA RICA CATALOG

Jerry F. Schimmel has released his COSTA RICA TOKENS, which identifies 235 tokens, including their rarities. There is also an introduction, price guide, and three different indexes. The price for the catalog is only \$4.00 from Jerry Schimmel, P.O. Box 40888, San Francisco, CA 94140. His FRENCH TOKENS catalog is also still available.

FREE
TOKENS

Write to the Radio and Television Commission, Southern Baptist Convention, 6350 West Freeway, Fort Worth, Texas 76150. Ask for their six piece set of "Creation Collection" medals. These are beautiful 39 mm aluminum medals, each depicting a scripture and scene from the book of Genesis in the Bible.

TOKEN
CONTEST

Send a 3"x5" piece of paper with yourname and address on it to: Treasure Hunt Sweepstakes, P.O.Box 789, Young America, MN 55399.

They will send you a set of two tokens, rules, a second chance entry, and a prize claim form. If one of the tokens has the words "You Win \$1000. In Cash", and, a treasure chest on the reverse, then YOU win the money!! There are 500 of these winning tokens available, and, many thousands of the "losing" tokens, although there is a "second chance" for the losers. I don't know how many loser tokens there are. You can enter as many times as you want, but all requests must be received by September 30, 1984, so hurry!!!

AMUSEMENT
TOKENS

The new Amusement Token Catalog is out!!! Written by our own CATC members Steve Alpert and Ken Smith, this catalog lists over 11,000 tokens and has an extensive cross reference index! This will be available at the September 16th meeting for only \$10.00!! Come to the meeting and get your copy personally autographed!!!

ALASKA
TOKENS

A set of twelve different commemorative transportation tokens honoring the 25th anniversary of the statehood of Alaska is available for only \$29.95 plus \$2. shipping. Each token has a different scene corresponding to each of the twelve months. Order them from Centennial Creations, 238 Ellingsen, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

ROCHESTER
TOKENS

Five different commemorative transportation tokens mounted in a cardboard case is available for only \$5. plus \$1. postage from: RTS TOKENS, 1372 East Main Street, P.O.Box 90629, Beechwood Station, Rochester, NY 14609. The five different tokens depict the following: (1) The Carthage Railroad (1833-1838), (2) The Bobtail Horsecar (1869-1892), (3) The Trolley Bus (1923-1932), (4) The Streetcar (1909-1941) and the RTS Bus (1983-1984). The tokens commemorate 150 years of transit progress.

OLYMPIC
TOKENS

The Los Angeles Olympic Games produced thirty-four different transportation tokens, all of which were valid for less than a month for bus fare. 24 of the tokens, in a plush case, are still available, as is the 25th, the "torchbearer", from various sources, including CATC meetings, of which the next is September 16th!! The remaining nine tokens sold for \$6.00 each and are no longer sold. There were three designs of these 39mm tokens: (1) Tetradrachm of Phillip II of Macedon (359-336 BC), (2) Stater of Aspendos in Pamphylia (400-275 BC), and (3) Decadrachm of Akragas in Sicily (412-410 BC). Each of these tokens were issued in brass ("Gold"), nickel ("Silver"), and bronze ("bronze") to simulate the three different Olympic awards. The \$6.00 price was one way, so one had to purchase two tokens (12.) for a round trip fare. These were used for special non stop buses directly to the entrances of the Olympic events. The next Olympics will be in 1988, in South Korea, and already people are preparing for the new onslaught of tokens and trinkets.

FREE
MAILING

If you have a one page token-related advertisement, bring 120 copies of it to the next CATC meeting, which is September 16th, and we will mail it out to CATC members for you, free, as long as it does not increase the weight of the envelope. We will also print your token ad FREE in the next TOKEN Topics. Just send it to me, LARRY EDELL, 1307-B Amapola Avenue, Torrance CA 90501. Or bring it to the Sept. 16 meeting!!!

CANADA, PUERTO RICO, AND
FOREIGN TRANSPORTATION TOKENS FOR SALE. Please add 10% postage.
LARRY EDELL, 1307-B Amapola Avenue, Torrance CA 90501 (213)320-9164

PUERTO RICO- 640A(.50) 640C(1.) 640D(.50) 640G(1.) 640H(.50)
BRITISH COLUMBIA- 800A(1.) 800B(1.) 800E(1.) 1000B(1.)
NEW BRUNSWICK - 600A(2.) 750A(1.) 750B(1.)
NOVA SCOTIA - 100B(1.) 100C(1.) 200A(30.) 350B(3.)
ONTARIO - 125A(10.) 325E(1.) 400C(.50) 400D(12.) 400E(12.) 555A(1.)
555B(1.) 675F(2.) 700D(1.) 700E(1.) 700F(1.50) 825G(1.)
855A(2.) 900A(1.) 900C(1.50) 900F(1.)
QUEBEC - 60A(1.) 100A(1.) 120A(1.) 120B(1.) 190A(1.) 190B(1.) 190C(1.)
200A(.50) 345G(.75) 345H(2.) 345I(1.) 360B(2.) 620Q(3.)
620W(2.) 620Y(3.) 620AB(3.) 620AC(1.50) 620AD(2.) 750B(1.50)
850A(.50) 850C(1.) 970A(.50) 970B(15.) 970C(.50)

ARGENTINA - 160G(1.) 160I(1.)
BRAZIL - 700A(1.) 700B(1.)
BERMUDA - 360BB(4.) Paradise Island (unlisted-\$5.)
CHINA - 720F(2.)
DENMARK - 160B(1.50) 160C(1.)
FRANCE - 600G(3.) 660BB(2.)
GERMANY - 740G(2.)
HUNGARY - 100B(2.)
MEXICO - 540C(1.)
NORWAY - 600K(1.50) 600M(2.)
SWEDEN - 240FA(2.) 240FE(2.) 240FM(1.50) 240FO(1.50) 300BD(1.) 300BF(1.)
490G(2.) 500AD(2.) 500AE(1.) 820MN(5.) HT Trafikselskab(\$5.unlisted)
TURKEY - 400M(4.) 400RA(3.)

SPECIAL - five different British T.T.'s (my choice) only \$4.00 postpaid!!!!

Two different foreign telephone tokens, just \$1.00 postpaid!!!

ONE HUNDRED different U.S. T.T.'s (my choice) unattributed, only \$20.00 ppd!!!!

100 different better TT's, all mounted in 2x2 holders and attributed, \$30. ppd!!

Make plans now to attend the 1985 AVA Convention in Toronto, Canada!!!!

SPECIAL - FIFTY different video tokens just \$20.00 postpaid!!!!

My ten different personal tokens for \$1.00 or any 10 different personals.

SPECIAL- a good mix of 1000 video tokens, just \$200.00- about 100 different!!!

Good California transit tokens wanted - will buy or trade!!!

Tokens with Bible scriptures on them wanted, will buy or trade!!!!!!

Will sell five different \$1. catalog T.T.'s for \$5.00 postpaid!!!

Will sell ten different \$1. catalog T.T.'s for \$10.00 postpaid!!

Will sell five different \$2.00 catalog T.T.'s for \$10.00 postpaid!!!!

FREE! A mailorder money making magazine for a stamped envelope!!!

Will trade my multiple duplicate (5 or more) listing for yours-let's trade!

WANTED- will purchase your spare T.T.'s- write me for my best quote!!!

LARRY EDELL, 1307-B AMAPOIA AVENUE, TORRANCE CALIFORNIA 90501 (213)3209164

TOKEN TOPICS

November, 1984
Issue #112

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

JOHN M. BARNES
EDITOR

INJURED MEMBERS: In mid October I received the sad news that Treasurer Andy Crusen and Secretary Elaine Willahan had both been seriously injured in an automobile accident near Sacramento while the pair were on a vacation trip, the accident having occurred on October 16. As of the date I am writing this issue (November 4) I have but little further information, except that both are still hospitalized and in serious condition. I wish I could say how much all of us in CATC wish these vital members a speedy return to health.

DISTRIBUTION PROBLEM: Because we are currently unable to locate the mailing list of CATC members, mailing of this issue to all paid members will be delayed until we can obtain their names and addresses. Those people, particularly local ones, whose addresses we know will receive this issue at the normal time. To those who receive this issue late we extend our apologies.

SEPTEMBER MINUTES: The September meeting was held at the home of Frank and Norma Roselinsky in the San Fernando Valley, where we were treated to great home-made cake and a good time. Present were Steve Alpert, Don Bestle, Larry Edell, Ken Smith, Eleanor Smith, John Barnes, Harriet Carter, Robert Carter, Boyd Cashman, Andy Crusen, James Garner, Frank Roselinsky, Wally Shidler, Elaine Willahan, and John Hillebrand. Guests were Howard Frost and Norma Roselinsky. The president gave a resume of his recent trip through Nevada with special attention to casino tokens. In addition, a lengthy discussion was held on the current fad (or is it?) of collecting Olympics pins. This is an activity outside the scope of token collecting, or surely the editor would have more to say about it! Frank Roselinsky generously returned the check which had been given to him to pay for the refreshments. Other donations were made by Larry Edell, Don Bestle, and Steve Alpert. Auction receipts totaled \$8.25.

NOVEMBER MEETING: Our coming meeting will be held at the home of John Barnes on Sunday, November 18, 1984; trading and conversation will start at 1:00 PM. It is probably best to approach by taking the Ventura Freeway to the Van Nuys Blvd. off ramp. Go south on Van Nuys Blvd., pass Ventura Blvd., and reach Valley Vista. Turn right (west) on Valley Vista and go 3/4 miles to Stone Canyon. Turn left at Stone Canyon and go just one block to Pacheco Drive. Turn right on Pacheco, go one more block, and you have arrived. Since it is very easy to get lost in my neighborhood I am supplying my phone number: (818) 783-6745. The address: 4021 Pacheco Drive, Sherman Oaks 91403.

PAPER TOKENS: In the July issue I began my current series of articles on these often obscure and uncataloged items. The current article concerns my own experience with the things, in the context of Navy Boot Camp in San Diego, California, as of the summer of 1951. It was less than a joyful experience on that second day in the U. S. Navy when I received my canvas bag of GI toilet articles plus the scrip book to buy soap and toothpaste for the next three months. The scrip book is illustrated below: it had five dollar coupons, five 50¢, ten 25¢, ten 10¢, five 5¢, and five barber shop 25¢ for the total of \$15.00. All were different colors. My financial condition was so poor that I couldn't afford to save specimens of the two highest denominations!

RTD OLYMPIC TOKENS: That's right: you and I, who paid in the neighborhood of \$20.00 per set for these turkeys are buried in them. If you don't believe me, read the L. A. Times article copied below. I can't help but wonder if they are still valid for fare. Anyone know?

U. S. NAVAL TRAINING CENTER, San Diego 33, Calif. INFORMATION TO RECRUITS

These coupons to the value of \$15.00 are issued to help you obtain necessary articles for health and comfort during your initial training period. This book is sold with the understanding that if not paid for at the time of issue, the \$15.00 must be paid by you to the Navy Exchange when you receive your first pay.

The sum of \$2.50 for altering uniforms deducted from this book is included in the uniform allowance credited to your pay account, the unused portion of which is returned to you in cash on the first pay day after you complete 90 days service.

All stores are operated by the Navy Exchange of this station. Profits derived from sales are used for your entertainment, and provide picture programs, athletic prizes and equipment, maintenance of libraries, recreation areas, radios in barracks, and other pleasures that could not otherwise be obtained.

THIS BOOK IS NOT TRANSFERABLE

6E189W

GOOD IN TRADE AT
NAVY EXCHANGE
U. S. N. T. C. S. D.
VOID IF DETACHED

25 CENTS

6E189W

GOOD IN TRADE AT
NAVY EXCHANGE
U. S. N. T. C. S. D.
VOID IF DETACHED

10 CENTS

6E189W

GOOD IN TRADE AT
NAVY EXCHANGE
U. S. N. T. C. S. D.
VOID IF DETACHED

5 CENTS

The Coupons in This Book Are Good
For Fifteen Dollars in Trade At

NAVY EXCHANGE
U. S. NAVAL TRAINING CENTER
San Diego 33, California

COUPONS VOID IF DETACHED
THIS BOOK IS NOT TRANSFERABLE

EXPIRATION DATE

\$15.00

Unused Portion Redeemable at Main Office
When Leaving Center or on Expiration Date

M68139

Part II/Friday, October 26, 1984

Low Prices for Games Tokens Anger RTD

Angry directors of the Southern California Rapid Transit District, shocked at the low price paid for thousands of Olympic tokens at a weekend auction, failed Thursday to overturn the purchase of the commemorative coins.

Nearly 132,000 sets of bus tokens were sold Sunday for an average price of \$3.13, less than half what the district paid for them, at the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee auction. The price also was far below the \$11.95 that board members had expected.

'Gift of Public Funds'

Director Nate Holden, who denounced the sale as "a gift of public funds," tried to persuade his colleagues to hold up delivery of the tokens. However, he could muster only five of the six necessary votes.

General Manager John Dyer defended the auction price, saying the market for the coins was "exhausted."

Dyer added that the district is now free from the "sizeable" cost of storing and selling the tokens. He said the sale also meant an overall net profit of nearly \$548,000 for the token program. Most of that profit was made before and during the Olympic period when 154,000 sets of the tokens were sold at \$29.95 each.

ADVERTISING: Unlisted Pekin, Ill. token, J. H. Pfanz, Good for 1 Quart of Milk; and, Good for 1 Pint of Milk. Both tokens for \$2.00 and SASE. Ben Odesser, 4604 Church St., Skokie, Ill. 60076

****Transit Tokens-ten different \$1.00 catalog or five different \$2.00 catalog tokens for just \$10.00 each, postpaid. My new discount fixed price list for SASE. Larry Edell, 1307-B Anapola Ave., Torrance, Cal. 90501
****Gaming & Casino Tokens: I sell and buy. Write for free list. Don Bestle 4010 W. Victory Bl., Burbank, Cal. 91505

****Chuckie Cheese tokens (no city) 1981-2, 50¢ea.; Gilbert Zapp's 25¢ play token-Campbell, Ca., \$1. ea; Santa Rosa Octoberfest (wood), 50¢; Spinner, Double Cola (alum.)-\$1.; JACKS SHOE REPAIR 50¢ towards any shoe repair, San Francisco (wood)-\$1.; The Corner 25¢ rain check 254 Clement (S.F.)(wood)-50¢; SAME, but den. 50¢-50¢. Ariz-840-G, .50; NY-10-0, .75; Parking MSPT 3070-B, 50¢; Unlisted Denmark Parking 3005 Brass, 60¢. John G. Micolosi, 2565 Portola Dr. (Sp. 43), Santa Cruz, Cal. 95062.

****I want many Philipppines tokens and medals for my collection. I have cash and/or California merchants' tokens ready to exchange for them. Please send list to John M. Barnes, PO Box 5152, Sherman Oaks, Cal. 91413.

****Please, please: when sending in your advertising be sure it is grammatically and typograhically correct. It is impossible to edit out all your mistakes!

RTD rips its staff for auctioning Olympic bus tokens

By PENELOPE SIMISON

Daily News Staff Writer

In a rare display of criticism, the Southern California Rapid Transit District board Thursday blasted its staff for auctioning off the remaining Olympic bus tokens.

The sternest words came from board member Nate Holden, who charged the staff with "contempt and total disrespect for the board" and suggested there was a "cover-up."

Other board members were just as critical, with Gordana Swanson saying she was "absolutely shocked" that the token sets were auctioned off for only \$3.13 each, not the \$12 figure discussed during an earlier board meeting.

And, Carmen Estrada asked more than once, "I'd like to know who authorized this sale."

But, the board fell one vote shy of halting the delivery of the token sets to the man who bought them last weekend during the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee auction.

Almost 132,000 sets were sold

Daily News

October 26, 1984

at the auction, for \$3.13 each, after only 5,500 sets were sold during the Olympic committee's memorabilia sale last week.

With that, RTD head John A. Dyer said Thursday, the token program showed a profit of almost \$548,000, a sharp difference from the \$1.4 million profit the RTD expected to make before a coin dealer defaulted on its agreement to purchase 228,000 token sets.

The sale of the remaining token sets still leaves the RTD with a deficit in its Olympic bus

service of more than \$4.2 million.

The board, which seldom criticizes its staff even when it disagrees on their recommendations, Thursday honed in on the decision to auction off the token sets. That decision, Dyer said, was made late last week, when it became apparent the RTD would

sell "only 5,500" token sets during the Olympic memorabilia sale.

Tony Fortuno, RTD marketing head, said most potential buyers were willing to pay only \$2 for each set but Dyer decided to request an opening bid of \$3.

The board complained it agreed only to sell the token sets

during the memorabilia sale, not during the Olympic committee's auction, and not for less than \$12 a set. (During the Games, token sets sold for about \$30 each.)

"The sentiment of this board (to sell the token sets for \$12) was not at any time fuzzy," Swanson said.

The "instruction of the board," she added, "was totally ignored," and a "different decision" about selling the tokens was made "without contact with the board."

But, Fortuno said efforts to sell the token sets were fruitless. "We saw the market (for Olympic items) totally disintegrate," he told the board, noting that Olympic T-shirts costing \$8 during the Games sold for 62 cents during the Olympic committee sale.

Board President Nick Patasouras defended the auction, saying "hindsight (on the staff's decision) is such an easy thing"